UNITARIAN WORD & WORK

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The Monthly Bulletin of the American Unitarian Association, The Alliance of Unitarian Women, Young People's Religious Union, and The Unitarian Temperance Society

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AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION
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THE UNITARIAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES

REPRESENTED IN THIS ISSUE OF WORD AND WORK

ALL OF THESE SOCIETIES have their headquarters in the building of the American Unitarian Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. The names of the principal officers of each society will be found on the first pages of the sections devoted to their respective organizations. The work and purpose of these societies may be stated in brief as follows:

THE AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION was founded in 1825, its object being "to diffuse the knowledge and promote the interests of pure Christianity." In furtherance of this purpose the Association publishes books, reports, and tracts; supports missionaries; establishes and maintains churches, and aids in supporting ministers; assists students in preparing for the ministry; and helps fellow-citizens of foreign birth and speech in entering upon their American life. It administers endowments for the benefit of schools and churches of the Unitarian order; for the relief of poor and worthy ministers and the widows of ministers; for providing public lectures in centers of population; for the benefit of schools for colored people in the South; and for many other beneficent purposes.

THE ALLIANCE OF UNITARIAN WOMEN

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE was organized in 1890, and has for its aims primarily to quicken the religious life of the Unitarian churches, and to bring the women of the denomination into closer acquaintance, co-operation and fellowship; to promote local organizations of women for missionary and denominational work; to bring them into helpful association; to collect and disseminate information regarding all matters of interest to the denomination, such as needs of local societies, facilities for meeting these needs, work to be done, the collection and distribution of money, and in general to devise ways and means for the most efficient usefulness of the women of the Unitarian fellowship.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS UNION

THE UNION was organized in 1896, and its purposes are to foster the religious life; to bring the young people of the Unitarian churches into closer relations with one another; and to spread rational views of religion and to put into practice such principles of life and duty as tend to uplift mankind. The cardinal principles of the Union are truth, worship and service. It maintains a field secretary to promote the organization of the young people and to extend the fellowship of the Union.

THE UNITARIAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY is practically the working committee of the Unitarian churches to promote the cause of temperance in every way possible. It publishes and freely distributes addresses, pamphlets, leaflets and tracts, and furnishes temperance news and facts to the public press. It arranges for conferences on the subject of temperance and sends speakers to general meetings where this subject may properly have a share in the interest and attention.

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EDITORIAL

"He acted with perfect independence, to the astonishment of both his antagonists and his friends."

[Menzel's History of Germany]

FOR an American to act with "perfect independence," so far as any ecclesiastical authority is concerned, especially if, by so doing, he advances the interests of truth and righteousness, does not excite "astonishment" on the part of either antagonists or friends. On the contrary, any sentiment approaching "astonishment" is more likely to be excited among English-speaking Protestants when there is any evidence that personal integrity is compromised to suit the selfish ends of those in power. Simple and commonplace as such an attitude may seem today, it is one that has been secured at a great cost. For an Augustinian monk 400 years ago to act "with perfect independence" was to invite the hostility, not only of the Church of Rome, but it was contrary to the mental and moral habits of the time.

Martin Luther, had it not been for the political jealousies and the ecclesiastical cupidities of his time, would have been speedily suppressed for "acting with perfect independence," and the great contribution to human freedom which the Reformation made would have been indefinitely postponed.

THE paramount reason why all Protestant churches are urged to take due notice of the quadri-centennial of the Lutheran Reformation is not merely to do honor to Luther as a man, but to place an adequate valuation upon a certain heroic deed which aroused the latent possibilities of individual freedom the world over. Luther as a man shared not a few of the crudities and superstitions and some of the bigotries of his age. His name has not lived because of these elements in this thought. He survives in the gratitude of civilized man because he became the providential agent of a new personal attitude towards all institutional authority. He awoke to life and set in motion certain moral and social influences which have yielded untold blessings and have created an atmosphere without which religious and political progress would have been impossible.

Among the many beneficent results of the Reformation was one which is seldom referred to with approbation. Our friends of the Catholic Church are never weary of pointing out that the Reformation was an instrument of disintegration among religious institutions. Indeed, Luther himself in the latter part of his life was horrified to find that, once the spirit of individual freedom was released, the unity of Christendom was threatened. Logically, if Luther could break away from the Romish Church there was no reason why any number of his followers might not break away from Luther. Something like a panic overtook the leader of the Reformation, himself, when intelligent scholars began to

question his authority and the authority of the Bible, just as he had questioned the authority of the Pope. He could easily see that the whole Protestant world was in imminent danger of breaking up into innumerable sects and parties, each one with its self-constituted spiritual tribunal and each claiming the same infallibility which Luther had denied the Pope.

Luther's fears have been more than realized. In fact, hundreds of denominations have come into being since the instigator of the Reformation inspired the first division. The Protestant part of the Christian world has been divided and subdivided beyond Luther's utmost apprehensions and the Catholic Church of today points to this fact as a reason for condemning Protestantism itself.

WHAT is the meaning of this process which has been going on now for four hundred years in the Protestant world? Is it altogether lamentable, or is it a mixture of good and evil, with the good in the majority?

To the short-sighted the disintegration of the Christian Church under the influence of the Lutheran propaganda appears to be unfortunate, but the short-sighted are not the ones who can estimate the value of permanent blessings. If it is desirable to have homogeneous and centralized external control over spiritual interests, then surely the Reformation was a failure, and worse than a failure; but if, through a process of superficial disintegration the unity of the spirit can ultimately be attained it is worth almost any sacrifice to secure it. It is not until recent years in our own liberal faith, that the great truth has become apparent, viz., that there may be genuine spiritual unity where there is the utmost intellectual and social diversity.

It is doubtful if any Christian body is more harmonious in spirit, better protected by the spirit of perfect freedom from internal discord, or more completely emancipated from the pernicious ambitions of organized religion than our own household of the faith, — in which it is taken for granted that everyone shall act "with perfect independence"; and where such an attitude does not excite "astonishment" on the part of either antagonists or friends.

It is true that Protestantism today labors under the disadvantage of a multiplicity of petty authorities. Jealousies, suspicions, and sectarian antagonisms have caused no end of mischief, and if Protestantism were always so to remain it is doubtful if we should be justified in celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of Luther's audacious enterprise; but we do not believe that Protestanism will always be distinguished by its multiplicity of differences. Underneath these differences it is now being seen that there is such a thing as "unity of the spirit." Never during all these four hundred years has it appeared so clearly to the discerning vision that the Protestant world may well become more harmonious within itself, more intent upon the great obligations of spiritual progress, than the outwardly compact and united Church of Rome. In the long run, there can be no Christian harmony unless it be through the unity of the spirit. Protestantism today must justify its existence through the spirit of freedom.

Having learned how futile is the attempt to marshal and apply the forces of Christianity by insisting on a unity of intellectual belief, Protestantism must recognize the fact that its only hope of continuing as an important factor in the welfare of the world is to organize itself anew with the spirit of good-will and brotherly love as its uniting principle. The old creedal husks fall away in order that the new life may express itself in the real spirit of Jesus Christ.

The purpose of the churches in the future must be not to establish a body of authority and power, but a program of beneficent activity. The cry of humanity is no longer for individual salvation in the coming world. More and more among the sincere and thoughtful is the conviction growing that the highest faith in God is satisfactorily guaranteed when expressed in terms of goodwill

among men. To use our brains here and now, frankly, fearlessly, and with prophetic sincerity, is the best way to prepare the soul for its future destiny, whatever it may be. The heart that beats in sympathy with its neighbor need not trouble itself about the company it is to enjoy in another world.

To use the eyes we now possess in creating a beautiful world here is to develop our capacity to enjoy the vision of heavenly glories. To employ aright the hands we carry on our mortal bodies is the best way to evolve the wings of immortal blessedness.

SOMEHOW there is something elemental and cosmic in the consent of a million young men, enjoying the full tide of life, to give themselves to their country. In the presence of such obedience the petty controversies of churchmen and the pious solicitude of evangelists appear irrelevant, if not contemptible. The battalions on their way to France shame the church councils that attempt to restrict and condition the way to heaven. The faith that is willing to "do or die" has its source in something deeper and prior to all our "articles of belief" and all our "plans of salvation." It is of the stuff that materializes in planets and glows in suns, and it is as safe a guide as, for planets and suns, is the force of gravitation. It reveals the kinship of the soul with the eternal elements, and the friendship of this world with the hidden spheres of everlasting life.

After this war, if the churches do not awake to spiritual realities and forget their differences of opinion about jots and tittles, and ritualistic conformities, and sectarian merits and demerits, then the disintegration of organized Christianity ought to become complete, and something better ought to arise in its place. What ten thousand theologians, gratuitously arranging the details of salvation cannot do, the boys in khaki are plainly revealing, viz., that the way to heaven is straight and narrow, and easy to follow, and open to all. Jesus of Nazareth, before any Christian eschatology was thought out, demonstrated the simplicity and naturalness of attaining eternal life through sacrifice and self-effacement. If the churches cannot learn this lesson once for all, and then in some magnificent harmony of purpose become each a part of a great army of the Lord, intent on redeeming the world from cruelty and selfishness, then the Lutheran Reformation will not have accomplished its ultimate, logical and supreme purpose.

American Unitarian Association

Headquarters: 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. Samuel A. Eliot, D. D., *President* — Henry M. Williams, *Treasurer*
Rev. Louis C. Cornish, *Secretary* — W. Forbes Robertson, *Assistant Secretary*

Ministerial Personals

Rev. Gaetano Conte, the representative of the American Unitarian Association in Italy, died at Florence on August 26.

Rev. Roy B. Wintersteen of the graduating class of the Meadville Theological School, has accepted a call to the Northside Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Rev. R. W. Savage has resigned at Charlestown, N. H.

Rev. Miles Hanson was installed at the First Church, Roxbury, and Rev. Oswald Helsing at Oklahoma, Okla., on October 7, Rev. F. M. Eliot at St. Paul, Minn., on October 11 and Rev. E. W. Bowden at Victoria, B. C. on the same day. Mr. V. B. Silliman was ordained and installed at St. Cloud, Minn., on October 12th. Rev. R. S. Forbes was installed at Germantown, Pa., on October 14 and Rev. E. B. Backus at Erie on October 21.

Rev. W. W. Peck has resigned at Winthrop, Mass., to take charge of the social work at Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass.

Rev. Albert Lévitt has resigned at West Bridgewater, Mass., and is a candidate for a chaplaincy in the United States Army.

Mr. William Yerington has taken charge at Kalamazoo, Mich., and was ordained at the meeting of the Michigan Conference at Toledo.

Four of the graduates of the Meadville Theological School were ordained at the School on September 20. These were Messrs. Valentine, Springer, Brown and Denny. Mr. Valentine was installed at Vineland, N. J. on October 5.

Rev. L. A. Harvey has resigned at Flatbush, Brooklyn, N. Y., Rev. Christopher Ruess at Fresno, Cal., and Rev. N. B. Knapp at Hinsdale, Ill.

At the Meadville Commencement, Rev. W. L. Sullivan and Rev. F. S. C. Wicks received the degree of Doctor of Divinity and Rev. W. I. Lawrance the degree of Doctor of Theology.

Churches

The charming new chapel for the Society in Lawrence, Mass., was dedicated on Sunday, September 23.

On October 7 the handsome and convenient new Church of the Unity in St. Louis, Mo., was dedicated, the President of the Association preaching the sermon.

Repairs and improvements have been made during the past month in the churches at Denver, Col., and Amherst, Mass.

Unity Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on October 21.

Plans are being prepared for the rehabilitation of the church in Ayer, Mass.

The Society at Canton, Mass., observed its two hundredth anniversary on October 28, and the Second Church in Salem celebrated the same anniversary on the same day.

The church in Kingston, Mass., celebrates its two hundredth anniversary on November 8 and the church in Brookfield, Mass., its one hundredth anniversary on November 11.

The Society in Houston, Tex., has made over a dwelling house into an attractive chapel seating one hundred, and comfortably furnished as a church home.

Journeys

Rev. H. C. McDougall, the secretary of the New Hampshire Conference, accepted a commission last month to go southward and re-open and revive the work of the church in Atlanta, Ga. Mr. McDougall preached Sundays, October 7 and 14 in Atlanta, the 21st at Birmingham, Ala., and on the 28th at Dayton, O. The pulpit at Franklin was supplied meanwhile by Messrs. Nobbs, Vrooman, Reeman and Eliot.

Field Secretary Nobbs has preached at Hyde Park and South Hingham, Mass.,

and Franklin N. H.; attended the New Hampshire Conference at Littleton and visited Ayer and Worcester, Mass. In the middle of the month he started for the South. On Sunday, October 21, he was at Nashville, Tenn. He then proceeded to Chattanooga, where he met Mr. McDougall so as to secure the latest information from Atlanta and Birmingham. On the 28th he preached at Atlanta, carrying forward the work of Mr. McDougall, and then his itinerary took him to Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Orlando and St. Petersburg, Fla. He will return north by the way of Charleston, S. C., and reach Boston the middle of November.

Field Secretary Murdock spent the month of October in a journey in the northern part of his great district. His itinerary covered visits to Sacramento, Cal., Eugene, Salem and Portland, Ore., Seattle, Bellingham, Anacortes and Spokane, Wash., Victoria and Vancouver, B. C. His Sundays were given to Salem and Spokane.

Field Secretary Brown left for the West immediately after the Conference at Montreal, with appointments at Pittsburgh, Wheeling, Memphis, Little Rock and Oklahoma City, where he arrived on Sunday, October 7, for the installation of Rev. Oswald E. Helsing. He then proceeded to Colorado, Utah and Montana.

Secretary Forbes spent October in the Middle West, attending the Conference of the Federation of Churches at Pittsburg and visiting and speaking in our churches at Youngstown, Indianapolis, Bloomington, Geneseo and elsewhere and finally attending the Housing Conference at Chicago.

Field Secretary Gilmore before the General Conference visited Niagara Falls N. Y., Hamilton and Toronto, Ont., and on the Sunday after the Conference he preached at Ottawa and returned to the New York office by the way of Troy and Albany. His later appointments have been at Yonkers and Ithaca, N. Y., Orange, N. J., Erie, Pa. and Wilmington, Del.

Rev. R. W. Boynton of Buffalo has accepted a commission for a brief journey in the northwest and will keep appointments at Toledo, Chicago, St. Paul, Winnipeg and such other places along that route as may be possible.

Dr. Francis G. Peabody, in connection with a two weeks' service as preacher at the University of Chicago, has been able to meet speaking and preaching appointments at Cleveland and Detroit. He has also preached the Conference Sermon at Montreal and addressed the Unitarian Club of Boston.

The General Conference

The officers and Directors of the Association were well represented at the meeting of the General Conference at Montreal. The official delegates of the Association were the President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition the Assistant Secretary, accompanied by two of the office staff, conducted a book display at the headquarters in Montreal, and were able to render considerable service to the officers of the Conference by establishing an information desk. Miss Buck of the Department of Religious Education had a part on the programme, and Mr. Saunderson, Secretary of the Department of Publicity, handled the publicity work of the Conference for its officers. Field Secretaries Brown and Gilmore attended the Conference, and in addition to these officers the following members of the Board of Directors were present: Messrs. Taft, Hersey, Brown, Smith, Wilbur, Bates, Letchworth, Simons, and Mrs. Dinsmoor and Mrs. Lombard. All of these representatives had some part either on the regular programme or in the discussions.

The Conference was a most significant one if only because it was the first meeting of the organization to be held outside of the United States. It was further peculiarly interesting because of the opportunity given at Montreal for the celebration of the One Hundred Years of Peace between the United States and Great Britain. A summary of the accomplishments of the Conference is not easy, because the

main thing was the development of the spirit of courage and confidence and the drawing together of the bonds of fellowship and goodwill. By an overwhelming vote the Conference put itself squarely and emphatically behind the national administration in the conduct of a necessary and righteous war. A judicious and promising plan for the future conduct of the Christian Register was adopted, and hearty support pledged to the paper under its proposed new administration. Canadian interests naturally received much attention, and the American delegates learned a good deal from the experience of Canada during the last three years. Much valuable information was acquired in regard to the safeguarding of soldiers and sailors, the suppression of the liquor traffic and of vice, and the care of the wounded and convalescent. Important amendments were adopted in the rules for guiding the work of the Fellowship Committee of the Conference, which may well result in the more adequate protection of our ministry and churches from ministerial adventurers. Amendments to the Constitution of the Conference itself were also adopted, and the officers of the Conference were made voting members of the Council. The delegates received a new lesson in the value of beauty and order in the service of worship. Among many vitally interesting meetings, two particularly stood out. These were the vesper services held in the beautiful Church of the Messiah. At one of these the Conference Sermon was preached by Dr. Peabody; at the other the Tablet given by the American delegates to the Church of the Messiah was unveiled, with an address by Dr. Eliot and a response by the President of the Montreal Church. These meetings owed much of their impressiveness to the beauty of the surroundings, the appropriateness of the music, and the dignity of the service. The outstanding personalities at the Conference were those of the President, Mr. Taft, and of the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Holmes. Mr. Holmes' sermons on the Sunday preceding the Conference were of marked value. Mr. Taft's forcible addresses were listened to by great audiences, and vigorously expressed the principles and hopes which animate the Unitarian fellowship in these critical times. These two leaders differed absolutely in their convictions, and Mr. Taft was justified in feeling that the report of the Council, read by Mr. Holmes, did not represent the convictions and purposes of the Unitarian body. It was repudiated, as stated above, by an overwhelming vote, and the resolution offered by Mr. Taft adopted. During the discussion of the resolution the feeling was tense and the debate animated. It should be said, however, that Unitarians exercised their customary self-control. Not one word was said which anyone needs to regret. The opposing speakers did not deal in personalities but with principles. Complete courtesy was shown to the members of the minority, and they were given entire freedom of speech. There was ample evidence of the spirit of unity beneath diversity of judgment. The Unitarian people again demonstrated the reality of their belief in freedom, their tolerant goodwill toward even a very small minority, and their capacity to reach a practically unanimous and ardently patriotic decision.

The Board Meeting

At the October meeting of the Directors of the Association votes were adopted authorizing the officers of the Association to make gifts of the publications of the Association and of the *Christian Register* to the various camps and cantonments. Authority was further given for the selection and publication of suitable pamphlets and bulletins to be issued as an Army and Navy Series. These pamphlets will be especially directed to the needs of the men in camps and on the ships. The President of the Association was further authorized to appoint volunteer chaplains for the camps. Various appropriations were made from the New England Budget for the furthering of the work in certain New England churches. Provision was made for the continuance of the work in Italy, whereby Mrs. Conte will have

charge of the administration of the office at Florence, the local Secretaries will continue their work, and the magazine will be edited by Hon. Romolo Murri, who has been for some time associated with Mr. Conte in that responsibility. Four lecturers were appointed on the Billings Foundation. Two of them, Mr. McDougall and Mr. Boynton, are already fulfilling their commissions. Dr. Wilbur will make a journey in the Southwest in January, and Mr. Springer, Secretary of the Young People's Religious Union, will travel in the Middle West early in the winter. After careful consideration and prolonged discussion, and upon the notice of withdrawal of other aid, the Board voted to discontinue the mission in Jamaica. The condition of the ministry and the outlook for recruiting the ministry was made a special order of the November meeting of the Board. There is no more important question before our churches.

Camp Devens

The New England Council, a body composed of the Presidents and Secretaries of the State and County Conferences and the officers of the American Unitarian Association, has sent out an appeal for money to aid in caring for the welfare of the forty thousand New England boys who are assembled at Camp Devens at Ayer, Mass. It is exceedingly desirable that opportunity and accommodations should be afforded there for Unitarian volunteer chaplains. Workers further need to be employed to care for the welfare of the young women of the neighboring communities. A new town is growing up around the camp and it presents many novel social and moral problems. The Unitarian Church at Ayer holds a strategic position, but the building must be improved, plumbing put in, furniture bought, new entrances and exits built, and facilities of all kinds increased. Furthermore, the five denominations represented in Ayer, including the Unitarian, have organized the Christian Federation of Ayer, the better to cope with the problems that have been thrust upon the churches. A community building has been erected between the town and the camp and equipped to serve the varied purposes of a social and religious centre. The Unitarians must bear their proportion of the expense of this valuable work, and our New England readers are urged to send contributions at once to the Treasurer of the fund, Mr. Charles B. Wiggin, 25 Beacon Street, Boston.

Department of Religious Education

The work of the Department in preparation for the celebration of the Luther quadri-centennial in our schools and churches seems to have met a real need. So large has the demand been for the stereopticon slides that in some cases churches that desired them have been unable to secure them. The *Service of Praise* has been sent out in large quantities and many copies of the *Pageant Scenes for the Observance of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation* have been purchased.

The publication of *The Beacon* has been resumed, and the high standard of last year will be maintained. Unfortunately the increased cost of material has necessitated a slight advance in the price. The group rate for schools will now be fifty cents for each subscription, and the rate for individuals sixty cents.

On the other hand it has been found possible to decrease the selling price of some of the books now issued in the new *Beacon Course*. Miss Buck's manual, *The Story of Jesus*, will now sell for $1.00, Prof Bowen's *Gospel of Jesus* for $.90, and Dr. Dodson's *Sympathy of Religions* for $1.00. It is hoped that the lower prices will make these valuable books more widely accessible.

The work on the new manuals not yet published is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible. Rev. Charles R. Joy has been temporarily engaged to assist in the editorial revision of the manuscripts.

During the past month various important meetings of interest to teachers of religious education have been held. The attention of all readers of WORD AND

WORK is called to Prof. Durant Drake's fine address at the General Conference, "What is Religious Education?" printed in the *Christian Register* for October 4. The discussion which followed Dr. Drake's paper was opened by the Associate Secretary of this Department.

The autumn meeting of the Unitarian Sunday School Society took place in the forenoon and afternoon of Tuesday, October 16. The meeting was held in Channing Hall in order that Sunday school workers in the neighborhood might become acquainted with our Unitarian headquarters and its work. Rev. Edmund H. Reeman of Trenton discussed "Some Modern Ideas of God," and Rev. Nelson J. Springer, the new Field Secretary for the Y. P. R. U., spoke of the application of these new ideas to the life of our young people in an address on "The Meaning of Religion for the Youth of the Present Time." Rev. Houghton Schumacher reported on the progress made up to the present time by the Joint Committee of the Unitarian Sunday School Society and the Young People's Religious Union, appointed to consider the possibility of larger cooperation between our Sunday schools and our Unions, under the suggestive title: "The Half-Way House." The morning session closed with a service of worship conducted by Rev. James W. Macdonald. In the afternoon two important historical addresses were given: the first on the "Principles involved in the Protestant Reformation," by Rev. Charles H. Lyttle, and the second a discussion of the progress in religious thought "From the Reformation through Independency and Congregationalism to Liberalism," by Rev. Miles Hanson. A Round Table was conducted by the President of the Sunday School Society.

The Unitarian Sunday School Union of Boston plans for a series of meetings upon the general topic: "Working together for the New Order." The series was opened with an address by the Secretary of this Department on "What Sunday Schools can do for Relief Work and Reconstruction." This course of addresses and discussions is significant as illustrating the way in which our schools are responding to the special needs of this time of stress.

The sessions of the Tuckerman School have been resumed and important courses of lectures are being given. Rev. Prof. Kirsopp Lake, assisted by Miss Harriet E. Johnson, is lecturing on Paul, and Rev. Earl M. Wilbur, president of the Pacific Unitarian School for the Ministry, is lecturing upon Unitarian history.

In cooperation with this Department the School has made arrangements with Prof. J. Mace Andress of the Boston Normal School for a series of lectures on child psychology. These lectures are being given each Saturday at half past ten o'clock, and have already proven most helpful and stimulating. The first half of the course is devoted to a study of the learning process, the second half to a discussion of habit and the higher mental processes in education.

The Tuckerman School and this Department are also cooperating with the professors of Boston University in the establishment of the new Beacon Hill School of Religious Education. One of its courses, that by Miss Mary E. Moxcey, author of *Girlhood and Character*, is being given on Saturdays in Channing Hall. Altogether there is large opportunity this autumn for any one near Boston to receive excellent training for work in the Sunday school.

Department of Publicity

"The Wayside Pulpit" is now an achievement and not merely a hope. There have been problems arising from the scarcity of paper, the difficulty of getting clear white pine, the congestion of work in factories, delays in shipping and transportation, but in spite of these and other problems the Wayside Pulpit is now established in many of our churches, in widely separated parts of the country, and is constantly proclaiming the messages of the liberal faith. More than one-fourth of all the churches in the Unitarian fellowship have already used the facilities

offered by the Department and others are now adopting them.

Questions still come to the Secretary of this Department concerning the fundamentals of the plan. The answers to these questions involve the repetition of some things that have been explained in detail in earlier issues of WORD AND WORK and by circular. Some of the ministers and committees visualize the Lincoln poster, and assume that the measurements of the Wayside Pulpit are the same, even though the distinction has carefully been made from the beginning that the two do not go together at all. THE WAYSIDE PULPIT TAKES SHEETS 32 X 44, THE LONG WAY HORIZONTAL.

To sum up the proposition which the American Unitarian Association through its Department of Publicity is making to the churches it may be briefly stated:

1. This Department will have the Wayside Pulpit (the bulletin board) built for the churches that wish to order it at a cost of $10.00. The church is to have the board painted and is to supply the sheet of glass for the front. We will not undertake to ship glass, and obviously it is impossible for the factory to match the color of paint on churches all over the country.

2. This Department will furnish blue prints and complete directions to churches which wish to build their own boards. In many churches there is a carpenter or builder who will take a personal interest in the project. A large number of boards have been built in this way.

3. This Department will furnish to all churches that will use them, the printed sheets at the rate of one a week. *There is no charge for the blue prints and directions for building the Wayside Pulpit, nor for these printed sheets.* Thus the churches that install this new device are able to avail themselves of this valuable material.

4. To meet the needs of a number of churches that wish to combine a changeable letter device with the Wayside Pulpit, the plan has been worked out for a "rack" which can be put into the Wayside Pulpit and which will carry movable letters. It costs $12.00 additional to have such a rack and a set of the letters. It is not necessary that this device be ordered at the same time as the Wayside Pulpit, but it can be added at any time.

The first lot of sheets was sent out during the first week in October, and should have reached the churches in time to be used during the week beginning October 8. Six sheets were sent in the first lot, which is sufficient to cover the time until the middle of November. The next lot will go out early in November. The first sheet of the new lot should be posted during the week beginning November 19. This lot will contain sentences suitable for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and the last one of the lot should be posted on Monday, December 31, and is appropriate for the New Year.

Churches which have not yet installed the Wayside Pulpit may still do so and receive *the full set of sheets from the beginning.* Of the first lot a sufficient number were printed to be able to supply these additional copies.

The Secretary of this Department, Mr. Saunderson, has outlined publicity campaigns for some of the churches which wish to make the Wayside Pulpit the center of larger plans for acquainting their communities with the principles of the liberal faith and building up the attendance at their church services. He has also delivered several times a new lecture on "The Romance of Democracy" and is prepared to make other speaking engagements with men's clubs, women's alliances, young people's unions and other church organizations.

Publication Department

The Publication Department had an exhibition of books, tracts, plays, catalogs and other material at the Hotel Windsor in Montreal during the meeting of the General Conference. In addition to the Publication Agent, Miss Routledge and Miss Hall were on duty and did efficient work in answering questions regarding our literature, and in addition assisted officers of the Conference in many different ways. We shall spare our readers the rehearsing

of our harrowing experiences in establishing our quarters at the Conference. By strenuous efforts, however, we were able to open our room for visitors a few minutes before the Conference officially opened. The sale of books did not equal our expectation, but considering the amount of interest shown and the advertising benefits which we undoubtedly received, we consider the enterprise a successful investment.

Two New Books

In addition to the material of the Department of Religious Education, the Beacon Press is now printing two new books, with a third that has been accepted but not yet started. The first of these books, which will be ready about the middle of November, is called "At Christmas Time," and is written by Dr. Charles W. Wendte, whose writings are so highly esteemed not only by Unitarians but by the general reading public. This book, which will be fully illustrated, tells in the author's charming way how Christmas has been observed in many different places in as many different ways. The stories are especially interesting as they have the personal touch of one who has actually known and seen the different characters and situations that he describes.

The other book is written by Rev. Lewis G. Wilson and is called "The Little Red Wonder Book." This little volume is especially well suited for use with children four or five years of age. The wonders of God, of prayer, of the world and of kindness are some of the chapter titles. Persons who have seen the manuscript have placed advance orders, and so will everyone who has or knows a child of that age. With suitable illustrations this is one of the best children's books of recent years. This volume will be ready December 1, 1917.

A *Roll of Honor* has been prepared for display in churches or church vestibules. It is printed in three colors on Japanese vellum 14 inches in width by 22 inches in length. This is a most attractive design and is excellently adapted for enrolling the names of the young men of a church, Sunday school or club, who are enlisted in the army or navy. These placards are suitable for framing and will be sold at fifty cents each, with an additional charge of eight cents for postage. It is hoped that every Unitarian Church will see that its Roll of Honor is accurately kept and the names of the young men who are serving the cause of freedom and humanity honorably displayed.

Word and Work

The letter addressed to the ministers and superintendents asking for their co-operation in increasing the number of subscribers to WORD AND WORK, has as yet brought but meagre return. We realize, however, that it takes time to circulate a subscription paper and feel sure that the next few weeks will see the effects of interested co-operation.

The New Hymn and Tune Book

Since the last announcement in WORD AND WORK the following Unitarian churches have adopted the *New Hymn and Tune Book*: Church of the Unity, St. Louis, Mo.; Unitarian Society, Waverly, Mass.; First Parish, Weston, Mass.; Central Parish, Yarmouth, Maine; and First Parish, Norwell, Mass. The Hackley School, Tarrytown-on-Hudson, New York, has also ordered the new hymn book.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The following recent books which may be classed as "books on liberal religion," "by Unitarian authers" or "about well-known Unitarians," have been acquired during the past month. They may be seen at the Book Room, 25 Beacon Street, and purchased at the accompanying prices.

The Best Man I Know, by William Dewitt Hyde; $.54 by mail.

Church Advertising: Its Why and How, by W. B. Ashley; $1.06 by mail.

Do We Need a New Idea of God? by Rev. Edmund H. Reeman; $1.08 by mail.

Life and Letters of C. P. Cranch, by Leonora Cranch Scott; $3.60 by mail.

Social Diagnosis, by Mary E. Richmond; $2.08 by mail.

The Alliance of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women

Headquarters: Room 10, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Miss Lucy Lowell, *President*
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Caroline S. Atherton, *Rec. Sec.*,
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Lucia Clapp Noyes, *Treasurer*
11 St. John St., Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Mrs. Robert H. Davis, *Cor. Sec.*,
226 Windermere Ave., Wayne, Pa.

The Conference visitors at Montreal found less war excitement than in Boston or New York. Few flags were flying, no enlistment posters were in evidence, and although gay uniforms were frequent on the streets, they were service worn and the men bronzed with exposure. The phase of talking and parade has passed, and Canada, war weary, has settled down grimly to the final struggle. Everyone has learned to save strength, to act with quiet determination, and the great reserves of this powerful young nation seem scarcely to have begun to flow. To us from below the line, in our first enthusiasm over Mr. Hoover's plans, Montreal, seen hastily, seemed not yet seriously saving its food. To be sure we had infinitesimal lumps of sugar for our coffee which was served in cups (of unaccustomed smallness) but it was easier to get a wheaten loaf than corn muffins, and the "meatless days" were liberally interpreted. In service Montreal is telling a different tale, fifty-five men and women from the Church of the Messiah alone, and that not one of the largest of the city churches, show how the best in our Unitarian Church has been given freely in defense of the country.

The Alliance luncheon of the General Conference in the Rose Room of the Windsor Hotel was a brilliant showing of numbers and enthusiasm. Over five hundred Alliance women from all parts of the country sat down together. Mrs. Louson, our new Canadian vice president, made the first address, a graceful welcome introducing Miss Lowell who presided. Miss Helen Reid, of Montreal, Lady of Grace of St. John of Jerusalem and Convenor of the Woman's Branch of the Patriotic Fund, made the principal address, describing in detail the patriotic relief and regenerative work which since the beginning of the war have been carried on under her able leadership. All that Miss Reid said was of remarkable interest to the American women present, facing as they are the same needs and problems. As she quietly and with no heroics told the story of the men who have lived and died, of the women who have worked and suffered, and of the gigantic projects of relief carried through, her listeners began to realize the deep and far reaching import of the regenerative work possible for women in connection with war.

Miss Reid believes in recreative effort for the soldiers, funds to raise tobacco and musical instruments and other comforts, for the soldier minds monotony and discomfort more than mutilation. She believes that a higher quality of service can be given to the relief of soldiers' families by volunteers than by a federal department, for the social worker has learned to fill the social and spiritual as well as the physical needs. Eleven thousand families have been helped in Montreal and four thousand families are now being assisted. The city has been districted with French and English leaders. War lays bare the social sores and under war conditions they must be healed. This Miss Reid feels is one of the compensations of war. The men who have died have had fulness of life in living if not in time.

The invalided soldiers are now coming back in monthly instalments to the city and the great effort is to fit these men to resume a place in civil life.

Mrs. Davis spoke briefly urging reconsecration after the burdens we are all passing through. She spoke of Alliance branches which are helping in the war and told of the founding of the

Montreal Alliance and of early Alliance work generally, especially paying tribute to Mrs. Theodore Williams and Miss Low, both of whom were present at the luncheon. Mrs. Atherton made the final address reminding those present of the necessity of keeping church and Alliance strong while carrying on patriotic service.

Census at the Luncheon Alliance, 508 total.

Board members, 16. Maine, 8; New Hampshire, 21; Vermont, 5; Massachusetts, 229 plus; Rhode Island, 12; New York, 18; New Jersey, 2; Pennsylvania, 17; District of Columbia, 6; West Virginia, 1; Canada, 131 plus; South Carolina, 1; Louisiana, 1; Texas, 1; Ohio, 15; Michigan, 3; Illinois, 4; Minnesota, 1; Wisconsin, 3; Iowa, 3; Nebraska, 1; Colorado, 2; and California, 3.

To Alliance women at the General Conference the address of Rev. Horace Westwood on "The Unitarian Missionary Opportunity of Canada," was of especial value. We have all been interested in the history of the smaller Canadian churches, have helped to build some of them and have contributed to their maintainance during the war. Mr. Westwood said "Since the war began Canada has developed great consciousness of growing national life. East and west have ceased to be conscious of each other. The message of the church is spiritual but the method should be based on a sound psychology. There are only two self supporting churches, Montreal and Toronto; all the rest are dependent on the British and American Unitarian Associations. There should be a department of Canadian churches, not as a policy of separation, but in order that all Canada may be dealt with together.

The money given to western Canada two years ago saved the situation. As the contribution of the free churches of America to the free churches of Canada the significance was even greater than the achievement. We should now go forward with a plan of greater things to come."

The collecting of old kid gloves for the use of the London Waistcoat Society is a war activity in which we can all help. The buttons are taken off, sewed upon cards by children, and sold, the fingers are made into glue, and the larger pieces of gloves are sewed upon linen net and made into waistcoats, small, light, and wind-proof. These are sold at nominal prices to the soldiers. Remnants of the linen net are sewed together to form dust covers for furniture, and even the tiny pieces of net are snipped up for stuffing for babies' mattresses. Not a scrap is wasted. Collect these gloves, especially those with long wrists, add to these, old fur coat linings, etc., and send them to Mrs. Charles Storrow, 112 High Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, to be forwarded in quantity to their destination.

Executive Board

The regular meeting was held September 14. Present: Miss Lowell, Mmes. Keyes, Peterson, Noyes, Atherton, Barry, Donahue, Whitney, Bacon, Bailey, Blair, Bouvè, Boyd, Bullock, Coolidge, Edgcomb, Faulk, Gilson, Hayes, Henry, Houghton, Kimball, Sawyer, Stearns, Walker, Ware, Whiting, Whitman, Bryant, Haines, Taussig.

The name of Miss Harriet H. Chase has been added to the Memorial List by the Chelsea, Mass., branch.

A letter of sympathy was sent to Mrs. Glasgow, director for Eastern Canada, whose son, a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service, has been killed in action.

The Appeals committee reported the continuance of the annual Appeals for Meadville and Pacific Schools for the Ministry, for the Tuckerman School for Parish Workers, and Green Harbort Mass., San Antonio, Texas, needs abou, three hundred dollars to complete its Appeal.

The chairman of the central Post Office Mission committee is Mrs. Anna F. Dakin, Ware Hall, Cambridge, Mass., of King's Chapel branch.

Mrs. Henry B. Heywood of Indianapolis is the newly elected director for Indiana.

The delegates of The Alliance to the General Conference in Montreal are the President and the Secretaries.

It was voted to double the Alliance contribution towards the expenses of the General Conference, the Board recognizing the importance to the denomination of the efforts of the Fellowship committee to maintain a high standard for ministers admitted to the fellowship.

Mrs. Peterson reported that Edith G. Pecker, greatly improved in health, will this year teach in the school at Swansboro, N. C., and assist Mr. Robinson in the work of this Circuit.

Headquarters report showed that 445 visitors called at Room 10 during the summer, many of these coming from outside New England. The San Francisco report mentioned the visit there of Boston Alliance workers.

The President has been made a member of the Advisory committee of the national Woman's Liberty Loan Committee, and a member of the Unitarian Commission on Food Administration appointed by Dr. Samuel A. Eliot at the request of Mr. Hoover. Miss Lowell is also honorary chairman of the 1917 Bazaar of the Young People's Religious Union.

The President and several State directors having been called to meetings of the Woman's committee of the Council of National Defense, whose aim is to co-ordinate the activities and resources of the women of the whole country to meet the present need, it was voted that the Social Service committee of The Alliance be asked to suggest to the branches definite ways of co-operating with the Council of National Defense and with other agencies for war service.

Particular attention was called to the campaign for money and books to secure suitable books and magazines for the soldier and sailor camps. Local librarians will advise about this most appealing call for service.

It was a great pleasure to have the directors from Missouri and Iowa present.

Mrs. Donahue told of the meetings at New Castle, N. H., in July under the management of the Unitarian Summer Meetings Association.

The next meeting will occur October 19, and will be Directors' Day, when every Board member is asked to suggest ways in which our work may be bettered.

CAROLINE S. ATHERTON,
Recording Secretary.

At the meeting of the Executive Board held October 19, Miss Lowell presiding, it was voted to renew the Appeal for $300 for Mme. Benso's services in Italy for one year. The death of Signor Conte will mean the readjustment of the work among Religious Liberals in Italy, but meantime our continued help may be the means of holding what has already been gained.

A letter from Mrs. Peterson told of the great floods in North Carolina and much suffering in consequence. The circuit work is going forward and the school at Swansboro has made a good start. That at Shelter Neck is now to open.

The Junior Fellowship committee plans to have members of the committee visit Junior branches and assist with forming new ones. The chairman should be addressed.

The Study Class committee has prepared two programs for home talent, one on the Alliance Manual and one on Loyalty. These may be obtained from headquarters.

Mrs. John W. Loud of Montreal has become a life member.

The name of Miss Henrietta Sawyer of Templeton, Mass., has been placed *in memoriam.*

The resignation of Miss Mary H. Bellows of Walpole, N. H., was accepted with regret and with an expression of appreciation of her valued service on the board and as chairman of College Centers Committee.

A letter of sympathy was sent to Mrs. Charles F. Smith of Louisville, Ky., on word of the death of her husband. A letter to Mrs. H. W. Hayes of Arlington, Mass., conveyed the recognition of the

long and faithful service of her mother, Mrs. Charlotte L. Raymond, as director for Massachusetts.

A letter of sympathy was ordered to be sent to Mrs. Conte in Italy.

The greetings of the board were sent to the Montreal branch with appreciation of their splendid hospitality during the recent Conference.

Miss Bancroft has consented to put before the branches of Boston and vicinity the call of the Boston Metropolitan Chapter of the Red Cross for volunteer workers and helpful co-operation.

The next meeting will occur November 9, when reports will be due from Rocky Mountains and from six Massachusetts directors.

CAROLINE S. ATHERTON,
Recording Secretary.

No mail can be sent from the United States to persons in the territories of the Central Powers or areas occupied by them. This includes all inquiries as to both welfare and whereabouts of individuals in the enemy countries. The Bureau of Information of the Red Cross will endeavor to obtain information concerning the welfare of American prisoners of war or prisoners belonging to our Allies in the hands of the Central Powers. It will also give information as to proper methods of forwarding money to prisoners of war; when permitted by the Government, will transmit letters to prisoners of war held in the Central Empires subject to such regulations as may be established by the War Department.

Junior Fellowship Notes

We are glad to see in the new manual the names of nine new groups of Juniors. Probably many of them have been doing good work for some years, but this happens to be their first appearance in the manual. They are Francestown, N. H.; Church of the Disciples, Boston; East Boston, Fall River, Marlboro, Newton, and Weston, Mass; Jamestown, N. Y. and Passaic, N. J.

An easy chair has been presented to the Junior Alliance Room in the Tuckerman School, and all three chairs belonging to the room have just been recovered dark green to match the couch cover.

When the Conference met in Montreal last month, members of the Junior Alliance in that city served refreshments to the guests at the reception held on Tuesday afternoon.

Dramatized versions of well-known books have proved to be excellent plays for Juniors. Two different groups have given "Cranford," others have acted scenes from "Little Women," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," and one Junior Alliance is busy preparing to give "Alice in Wonderland." Other plays that have been tried are "Our Aunt from California," "The Three Chauffeurs," "Mr. Bob", "Daddy", "Beauty and the Beast", "The Old Peabody Pew," and scenes from "The Peterkin Papers."

A Message from the New Chairman

This is a year of opportunity. We trust that all Junior Alliance members and those of other Junior Associations are coming together brimful of enthusiasm and inspiration which they are eager to pass on.

Mrs. Voigt, our former chairman, having been called to hospital service abroad, it falls to us to carry on the work so well started by her here. This can only be accomplished through hearty cooperation, and this is earnestly asked for by her successor.

Members of the Committee will be glad to visit Junior Alliances, whenever it is desired and can be arranged.

LAURA R. DOWNELL,
Chairman, Junior Fellowship Committee.

A Calendar of War Verse For the Benefit of The Red Cross

The First Unitarian Church School of Buffalo announces the publication of "A Calendar of War Verse" to be sold for the benefit of the Red Cross. This calendar contains fifty-three poems of the Great War, and represents forty-three leading authors of the day. Careful attention has been given to the choice of poems suitable for

special days and seasons. The leading nations in the war, Belgium, France, England, Russia and America—the aspects of heroism, sacrifice, liberty, humanity, and ultimate peace all receive tribute. The general aim is to present a poem for each week which will bear its message of idealism and inspiration. Many poets of our day have consecrated themselves to the task of stirring the world to devoted patriotism and to high endeavor in the cause of freedom and humanity. The Calendar of War Verse serves as a bearer of their torch.

The literary quality needs no testimony other than the names of those whose verses appear by special permission. Among these names are Rupert Brooke, Alan Seeger, Alfred Noyes, Edgar Lee Masters, Hermann Hagedorn, Florence Earle Coates, Amelia Josephine Burr, Katharine Lee Bates and many others of equal note.

A beautiful design for the cover-sheet symbolizing war, victory and peace has been contributed by a well-known artist of Buffalo. The leaves are illuminated in color and mounted on a cardboard standard 5½ by 8 inches.

The calendar presents a universal appeal both in aim and substance; it is attractive in design, and as an anthology contains some of the best of modern poetry. It should meet with generous appreciation as an inexpensive Christmas gift.

If any group or organization desires to use the calendar to raise money for its own local branch of the Red Cross, lots of fifty or more may be obtained at a reduced price. All receipts from the sale will go to the Red Cross, and no profit will be made by any other organization or individual.

The regular price is 65 cents. Address orders and inquiries to Mrs. E. H. Letchworth, 106 Windsor Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y.

News from the Branches

The Elizabeth, N. J., Alliance has just presented an evening of Biblical tableaux with the Sunday school taking all the parts. The Alliance provided the costumes, the children found it an easy road to the learning of old Testament narrative, and the Alliance treasury netted fifty dollars.

As a consolation the Isle of Shoals meetings were held at the Hotel Wentworth, Newcastle, near Portsmouth, and on The Alliance afternoon, Mrs. Donahue, the New Hampshire director, presided. Mrs. W. K. Robbins for twenty-five years president of the Manchester, N.H., branch, talked on Woman's Part in the National Crisis, and Mrs. Prescott Keyes of the Independent War Relief Work of Concord, Mass. A contribution of fifty dollars was collected for Southern Circuit work. Hotel Wentworth was found to have one advantage over the beloved Shoals, in that people could come in motors for the day.

From a letter from Omaha: "Has anyone told you the sad news that the church is to cost a third more than the architect had led us to expect? And the really glorious news that before Mr. Leavens left for his vacation the additional money had all been pledged, to pay off in a certain time anything we may have to borrow.

"Now the Alliance promises the money for the pews and our personal pledges raised (by individual effort) will go into that fund.

"Certainly there is the right spirit behind this work or such a result could not have been obtained in these awful times."

There are frequent calls for branch by-laws as models for branches revising their own or making new by-laws. Copies will be gratefully received and forwarded to inquirers. Address The Alliance, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

The branch at Malden, Mass., will hold a Sale on November 15, and asks contributions of aprons from interested friends. The aprons may be sent to Mrs. E. B. Whitney, 100 Tremont St., Malden.

Copy of Resolution Adopted by Church of the Messiah (Montreal) Branch Alliance at Meeting October 10th, 1917.

"Since this is the first season for eight years which the Church of the

Messiah and this Alliance have begun without the helpful presence of our pastor, Rev. Frederick R. Griffin, and our fellow-member, Mrs. Griffin, it is now fitting to attempt some expression of appreciation for all they have meant to us.

"As a pastor, Mr. Griffin has made himself welcome and beloved equally in our times of happiness and of sorrow; as a minister of the Christian church by his felicity of expression, his breadth of vision, and his sincerity he has become a power for good, not only to this fellowship, but to the whole community.

"During these years, Mrs. Griffin, also, who has faithfully shared her husband's labors, has found a place in our hearts. We of the Alliance in particular shall miss her, as she has been a loyal member and office-bearer.

"Therefore, be it resolved, that we express our deep regret at losing them, as well as our lasting friendship and regard, and extend to them our sincere wishes for their happiness and success in their new field;

"And be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, to the WORD AND WORK, the CHRISTIAN REGISTER, and be printed in the church calendar."

Concerning Life Members and Branch Membership

The question sometimes asked, if a life member is not exempt from paying branch dues, doubtless arises from a misunderstanding of the corporate membership of The Alliance. The by-laws provide for two classes of members; first, group membership, made up of individuals, but counted as a unit and called a branch; second, life membership, composed of individuals who pay to the general treasury at one time a fee of $25.00. Such life members are entitled to vote at all business meetings of the general body and to receive free its publications — the Manual, WORD AND WORK, etc. Life membership is an arrangement between an individual and the general body and does not constitute a person a member of any branch. Membership in a branch is governed by the by-laws of the branch, which fixes the amount of its own fee. Each branch sends one-third of its membership receipts each year as dues to the general treasury, retaining the remaining two thirds for religious, denominational and church purposes apportioning it at the will of the branch. The regular fee for branch members is $1.00 a year, but some branches have established a local fee of less than one dollar. A member who pays the dollar a year helps her branch four times as much as the one who gives only twenty-five cents, as in each case the branch gets two-thirds, while the general treasury gets one-third of the membership fee.

Any woman who holds office or goes as a delegate to business meetings of the general body must be reckoned as a dollar member; if she does not actually pay that amount, her branch treasury must make up the thirty-three cents, due from the officer or delegate, in sending the annual dues. The method of computing dues in cases where two fees have been established is as follows:

3 officers at $1	$3
7 other members at $1	7
20 members at 25 cents	5
Total receipts	$15

One-third of $15 equals $5 which is the amount due the general treasury.

A few branches have honorary members who pay no dues. Such should be reckoned as paying members in making up dues for the general treasury, as the by-laws of The Alliance do not recognize this classification.

LUCIA CLAPP NOYES,
Treasurer.

Appeals stand as follows:

San Antonio, Texas	$281
Green Harbor, Mass.	267
Meadville Students	235
Pacific School Students	240
Tuckerman School	248
Southern Circuit, in addition to pledges	1,000

Young People's Religious Union of the Unitarian Church

Headquarters: Room 11, 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. Frederick M. Eliot, *President*

Rev. Nelson J. Springer, *Secretary* Mr. O. Arthur McMurdie, *Treasurer*

During the month of September the field secretary visited the following cities: Erie, Pa.; Cincinnati, O.; Louisville, Ky.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Evanston, Ill.; Kalamazoo and Detroit, Mich.; and Cleveland, O.

The results of that trip may be indicated briefly as follows:

(1) There is a small but splendid group of young people in Erie, Pa., chiefly of high school age, who received some impetus from the field secretary's visit, but who need to be encouraged and fostered during the early stages of their organization. The minister in Erie, Rev. E. Burdette Backus, is deeply interested in the work of the young people, and is earnestly devoting a vast share of his effort toward carrying out the work which the field secretary began.

(2) The society in Cincinnati is large and vigorous, hardly in need of the assistance of the field secretary, except to help relate the local society to the national body. It is doing a splendid religious, social, and dramatic work, and its only problem is the expansion of its tasks. The society receives the hearty and valuable co-operation of the minister, Rev. Alson H. Robinson, to the extent that he cut short his vacation and travelled hundreds of miles back to Cincinnati in order to make possible a meeting with the field secretary.

(3) The young people in Louisville are unorganized, and, for the present, the problem of their organization remains unsolved. The minister, Rev. Dilworth R. Lupton, is doing his best, however, to bring about an early organization. The young people in the church are extremely anxious to help make life pleasant for the forty thousand troops now in camp near the city, and they are extremely desirous of engaging in other social, dramatic, civic, and religious enterprises, but are not quite sure how they ought to proceed. Local conditions have diverted the interest of the majority of the young people in the congregation from the young people's affairs in the church. The present problem in Louisville seems to be to catch the interest long enough to effect an organization. The young people present at the meeting in Louisville expressed their confidence in the worth and attractiveness of the program presented by the national organization, and can be counted on for co-operation.

(4) Only a very small number of the young people in the Indianapolis church had returned to the city, and very little that is definite was accomplished. Those whom the field secretary interviewed were enthusiastic, and volunteered to push the program when the church began its normal activities. In the past, the young people in this church have devoted themselves almost exclusively to works of social service, but several expressed a desire to undertake additional enterprises of other kinds.

(5) The church in Evanston has a new minister of great promise, Rev. Arthur T. Brown, who may be expected to do all in his power to further the interests of the young people's work. The first problem in Evanston seems to be the building of a parish house, a task which many are hoping will soon be accomplished. At the present time, the only opportunity for young people's work seems to be limited to enterprises that are not specifically those of our young people's organizations.

(6) When the field secretary arrived in Kalamazoo, Mich., there was no young people's society. There is one now. With the splendid assistance of the new minister, Mr. Yerington, who gave the better part of two whole days to the carrying on of the work, a large number of young people were endowed with enthusiasm. It is not too much to hope that the society in Kalamazoo will soon be one of our strongest, since it is

endowed not only with numbers but with a great deal of talent.

(7) Like the society in Cincinnati, the society in Detroit is strong and effective. It is undertaking large tasks in every direction, and is making a great contribution to religious pageantry under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. Shippen.

(8) In Cleveland the Channing Club is proving a nucleus for an increasing group of young people who are becoming definitely conscious of their Unitarian allegiance. Like the groups in Evanston and Erie, these young people are for the most part of high school age. They are vigorous and capable, and ought to build up an organization which will be a source of great strength to their church.

The common problem of all our Young People's societies is the loss of many of their finest and most valuable members through the draft. This ought to inspire the young men remaining behind with an added sense of responsibility for carrying on the work which those who have been called to the colors cannot now continue to fulfil.

All of the societies have promised their hearty and substantial support of the biennial fair to be held in Boston during the first week in December. Every society should remember that this fair is not a local but a national enterprise, and that the money raised by this undertaking will be used as much for the service of the most remote society on the Pacific Coast as for the service of any society in New England. Indeed, the national organization has already demonstrated its intentions to be of national scope by sending the field secretary on his first mission into the Middle West. In addition to the societies visited in the trip described above, these other societies have been visited on previous occasions: Marietta, O.; Pittsburgh, Pa. (two churches), Youngstown, O., and Dunkirk, N. Y.

From now on until the first week in December, the field secretary will devote most of his time to organizing the office for the new field work, making plans with the board of directors and visiting societies in New England, besides extending to Miss Katharine Williams, chairman of the Fair committee, whatever of his services she may be able to use.

In the meantime the field secretary will have arranged an itinerary covering the widest possible area of the United States and reaching the largest possible number of churches. Are you going to help make this really national work a permanent possibility?

One way in which you can do this is by supporting the work of the coming fair. Write to Miss Katharine Williams, in care of this office, today, and she will tell you how you can help.

Another way in which you can help is to make your contribution, or annual dues, as large and as early as possible. We shall need more money than ever this year to carry out our work, which is being established on a more definite basis than ever before in the history of the organization. Send your contributions to the treasurer, Mr. O. Arthur McMurdie, in care of this office. Do not overlook this important item in your annual budget.

In this connection it is only fair to say that the American Unitarian Association has made possible the trip of the field secretary from Albany to St. Louis, to Washington and return, including all intermediate points. We mention this fact here not only because we are grateful to the American Unitarian Association for this substantial support, but because we wish to call the attention of the Unitarians of this country to the fact that the American Unitarian Association has endorsed our work in this very concrete and unmistakable fashion.

Even in the face of such tangible friendliness as this, however, the existence of the Young People's Religious Union is, to say the least, precarious. The constant uncertainty that it will have funds in the future with which to carry on its work hinders it at every step, and prevents its officers from moving with the effectiveness of free men. Their whole activity for the future and for the present, is mortgaged by the fear that when the hour arrives the organization may not be able to

finance the enterprises it has agreed to undertake.

This is a frank statement of the plain truth. We put it thus forcibly because we wish for once at least to call the attention of the whole denomination to our needs and opportunities.

The Y. P. R. U. is not only aggressive but daring. We are trying to work on a large scale with very little in the way of definite resources. We have already, through the field secretary, reached societies from Brighton, Mass., to Chicago, Ill. We have issued a great number of copies of a pageant especially written for Unitarian young people. Our October circular letter has reached every young people's society in this country. We are collecting information with reference to successful programs from various societies which we are glad to give to any society upon request. We stand ready to answer, with reasonable despatch, letters from any society asking for help in the solution of specific and concrete problems, not guaranteeing our infallibility, but believing that through consultation the local society and the national organization may stimulate each other to fruitful thought and successful endeavor.

On October 16, the field secretary addressed the autumn meeting of the Unitarian Sunday School Society in Channing Hall. His subject was, "The Meaning of Religion for Youth at the Present Time."

On October 18, the field secretary addressed the meeting of the New England Associate Alliance, held in Keene, N. H., at which time he presented a brief sketch of the concrete program of the national organization for the coming year, and solicited the support of members of the Women's Alliance everywhere, holding that it is their first interest as the mothers of the church to further the welfare of the young people.

Plans for the biennial fair, which is to be held in the Arlington Street Church, December 7, are progressing rapidly. Miss Katharine Williams, the chairman of the fair committee, is enlisting the aid of societies throughout the United States, so that the enterprise promises to be national in character, not merely through the end it serves but by the means wherewith it is to be carried to success.

Perhaps, from what has been said, everyone interested at all in young people's work will begin to understand that the national organization has shouldered a serious responsibility, and is undertaking a "man's work." We invite you, therefore, everyone of you, to co-operate with us and to assist us in carrying this work to a successful conclusion. WE WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT US! Then, we want you to help us. We have faith in the work we are doing; and we are sure you will share that faith, once you know what our work is.

Unitarian Temperance Society

Rev. John Haynes Holmes, *President*, New York, N. Y.
Thomas H. Elliott, *Vice-President*, Lowell, Mass.
Rev. Chester A. Drummond, *Secretary*, Somerville, Mass.
Charles H. Stearns, *Treasurer*, Brookline, Mass.
Rev. Lyman V. Rutledge, *Field Secretary*, Cambridge, Mass.

UNITARIANS MOBILIZING FOR NATIONAL PROHIBITION

As the United States has added the decisive quota to the allied forces against German autocracy, so the Unitarians are now called upon to add their strength to the prohibition movement in America. Von Bernstorf, Zimmermann, and their kind have been exposed as treacherous plotters who attempted bribery on a large scale. With them must be classed the liquor interests of America, who with even more insidious treachery have bought our government. In the United States Court at Pittsburgh thirty-three brewers were fined $50,000 for misuses of money in the Congressional election of 1914. The United States Brewers' Association was fined $10,000 on a similar charge. They were judged guilty of expending a fund exceeding $1,000,000 to influence the election of a United States senator and thirty-six representatives. More recent scandal has been discovered with reference to attempts to defeat prohibition as a war measure. Look for details in this column from time to time.

THE DECEMBER DRIVE

The United States Senate voted 65 to 20 to submit national prohibition as an amendment to the States. In December the House will vote on this measure. The liquor interests know that this is the Verdun of prohibition. If they do not win in December their name is Hohenzollern. They are spending large fortunes and bringing tremendous pressure to bear on our representatives. They attempt to divide temperance forces. They offer bogus peace measures in the name of beer and wine compromise.

Every loyal Unitarian should immediately rise to aid his representative in withstanding this terrific pressure.

The Unitarian Temperance Society recognizing the gravity of the December crisis and acknowledging the strategic advantage of Unitarians whose influence may be the determining factor for victory have launched a strenuous campaign to secure favorable action by the House of Representatives.

Rev. Lyman V. Rutledge of Cambridge who has served as Executive Secretary of the War Prohibition Conservation Committee since its organization last April has been asked to serve as Field Secretary of the Unitarian Temperance Society, to direct their forces in this campaign. Every available resource should be marshalled for the December drive. Financial support is necessary. Make your check payable immediately to Mr. Charles H. Stearns, Treasurer.

THE SYMPATHY OF RELIGIONS

By George R. Dodson, Ph. D.

The title of this book reveals its spirit. The fundamental assumption is that back of all religions, is religion,—a universal striving for knowledge of God and desire to do the divine will. Instead of a catalogue of names, dates and articles of belief, there is a sufficient treatment of some of the non-Christian faiths to give a sympathetic understanding of them, and show how the one Spirit makes itself felt under varying conditions. The use of this book should strengthen faith in the universal Providence, and at the same time make our own faith both clearer and more deeply appreciated. It is especially suited for use in the advanced classes of Sunday schools.

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